

Small Group Guide



Small Group Guide: Thriving Through Prayer

Opening Prayer

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to understand the gift of prayer and to cultivate a genuine desire to commune with Him.

Icebreaker Question

When was a time in your life when you desperately wanted to pray—not because you felt you should, but because you genuinely needed God's help?

Key Takeaways

1. Prayer Flows from Desire, Not Duty

The disciples didn't need to be told to pray—they asked Jesus to teach them because they wanted to learn. They had witnessed His power and realized they couldn't fulfill their calling without prayer.

2. We Forget Our Need When We Forget Our Identity

When we lose sight of who we are (beloved children of God), whose we are (belonging to Christ), and why we're here (to make God's kingdom visible), prayer becomes a chore rather than a lifeline.

3. Cultural Drift Diminishes Our Prayer Life

The culture teaches us to aim for comfort, avoid pain, and pursue ordinary lives. When we adopt this mindset, we lose our sense of desperate need for God's power.

4. Great Prayers Longed to Live Powerful Lives

People who prayed powerfully did so because they believed they were called to extraordinary obedience and faithfulness. Prayer was the natural response to their ambitious faith.

5. Everything Good Comes from God

When we recognize that every breath, every blessing, and every beautiful thing is a gift from God, gratitude becomes the foundation of our prayer life.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. **Read Luke 11:1.** What do you think prompted the disciples to ask Jesus to teach them to pray? What had they been witnessing?
2. The sermon mentions that the disciples "had made the connection between prayer and power." What does this mean? How does this connection show up in your own life?

Personal Reflection

3. Be honest: Does the invitation to pray feel more like "helping move a refrigerator" or "eating barbecue" to you right now? Why do you think that is?
4. The pastor said, "We forget who we are, whose we are, and why we're here." Which of these three do you struggle most to remember? How does forgetting affect your prayer life?
5. When have you experienced prayer as a gift rather than a duty? What was different about that season of your life?

Going Deeper

6. **Read Ephesians 6:18-20.** Paul was in chains but prayed for boldness to share the gospel. What does this reveal about his priorities? How do your prayer requests compare?
7. The sermon suggests that if we "start actually trying to follow Jesus," we will "desperately long to pray." Do you agree? What specific aspects of following Jesus make prayer feel more necessary?
8. How does cultural thinking (comfort, safety, ordinary success) creep into your life and diminish your sense of need for God?

Application

9. What would change about your prayer life if you truly believed you were called to live an extraordinary life of love, grace, and power?
 10. The pastor's first prayer every morning is simply "Thank you, Lord." How might beginning your day with gratitude transform your perspective on prayer?
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose **one** of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Morning Gratitude

Start each day this week with a simple prayer of thanksgiving. Before you check your phone or get out of bed, thank God for three specific things.

Option 2: Prayer Audit

Review your recent prayers (mental or written). What do they reveal about what you believe God has called you to? Are your prayers focused on comfort or on kingdom impact?

Option 3: Bold Obedience

Identify one way you've been playing it safe in your faith. Pray specifically for courage to obey Jesus in that area, and take one concrete step of obedience this week.

Option 4: Identity Reminder

Write down and memorize these three questions:

- Who am I? (A beloved child of God)
- Whose am I? (I belong to Christ)
- Why am I here? (To make God's kingdom visible)

Pray through these questions each day this week.

Group Prayer Time

Pray for one another in these areas:

1. That God would increase our desire to pray—not out of duty but out of longing
2. That we would remember our true identity and calling as followers of Jesus
3. That we would resist cultural drift and embrace extraordinary obedience

4. For specific areas where group members need boldness to follow Jesus
 5. With gratitude for all the good gifts God has given us
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Closing Reflection

"They prayed because they longed and desired to live powerful lives. They believed they were actually called to follow Jesus into extraordinary lives of love and grace and power."

How is God calling you to move from ordinary to extraordinary faithfulness? What would change if you truly believed that your faithfulness to God matters and that eternal destinies are at stake?

For Next Week

Come prepared to share how your prayer practice went this week and what you learned about your own desires and God's faithfulness.